

\*Chart Revised & Updated\*: \*January 3, 2010\* Updated!

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# Fiction Writer's Character Chart

*Once filled out, this chart helps writers get a firm grasp on characters.*

*Happy writing!*

*Reb*

<http://www.rebeccasinclair.com>

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Date this chart was completed: \_\_\_\_\_

Character's Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Reason or meaning of name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Nickname: \_\_\_\_\_ Reason for Nickname: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Astrological Sign:**

(Go to <http://www.astrologycom.com/signs.html> for a free astrological chart per sign. Not only is each a great way to get a "quick personality" for minor "walk-on" characters, you can also get a sign's horoscope for that day and put those stumbling blocks in your character(s) path!)

## **PHYSICAL APPEARANCE:**

Age: _____	How old does s/he appear? _____
Eye Color: _____	Glasses or contacts: _____
Weight: _____	Height: _____
Type of body/build: _____	
Skin tone: _____	Skin type: _____
Shape of face: _____	Distinguishing Marks: _____

\_\_\_\_\_  
Predominant feature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Hair color: \_\_\_\_\_

Distinguishable hair feature (bald,  
receding hairline, center part, etc.):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Type of hair (coarse, fine, thick, etc?): \_\_\_\_\_  
Character's typical hairstyle: \_\_\_\_\_  
Resembles: \_\_\_\_\_  
Is s/he healthy? \_\_\_\_\_  
If not, why not: \_\_\_\_\_  
Physical disabilities: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## FAVORITES

Character's favorite color: \_\_\_\_\_  
Why? \_\_\_\_\_  
Character's least favorite color: \_\_\_\_\_  
Why? \_\_\_\_\_  
Favorite Music: \_\_\_\_\_  
Least favorite Music: \_\_\_\_\_  
Why? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(Same for:)  
Food: \_\_\_\_\_  
Literature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Expressions: \_\_\_\_\_ Favorite book: \_\_\_\_\_  
Why? \_\_\_\_\_  
Expletives: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mode of transportation: \_\_\_\_\_  
Daredevil or cautious? \_\_\_\_\_  
Same when alone? \_\_\_\_\_

## HABITS

\*Smokes: \_\_\_\_\_ What? \_\_\_\_\_  
When and how much? \_\_\_\_\_  
Drinks: \_\_\_\_\_ What? \_\_\_\_\_  
When and how much? \_\_\_\_\_  
Hobbies: \_\_\_\_\_  
How does character spend a rainy day? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
First memory: \_\_\_\_\_

Most important childhood event that still affects him/her: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Why? \_\_\_\_\_

Education:

Religion:

Finances:

## **FAMILY:**

Mother:

Relationship with her:

Father:

Relationship with him:

Siblings:

How many?

Birth order:

Relationship with each:

Children of siblings:

Extended family?

Close? Yes/No

Why or why not?

## **CHILDREN:**

Does character have child(ren)?

How many children does character have?

Are all children with the same partner?

If no, why not?

If no, what is the custody arrangement?

How does character relate to his/her child(ren)?

Which child is character's favorite? (admit it or not, we all have one)\_\_\_

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

What is characters most favorite memory of his/her child(ren)?\_\_\_\_\_

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

What is character's least favorite memory of his/her child(ren)? \_\_\_\_\_

Is relationship with children important to character? Yes/No

## OCCUPATION

Where does Character work?

How does s/he feel about co-workers?  
co-workers?

Like his/her job?

For how long?  
Get along with

Why or why not?\_\_

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Character's dream job: \_\_\_\_\_

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## ATTITUDE:

Character's greatest fear:

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the worst thing that could happen to him/her? \_\_\_\_\_

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What single event would most throw character's life in complete turmoil?

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Why?

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Character is most at ease when:

Most ill at ease when:

Depressive or SAD (Seasonal Affective Disorder)?

Priorities:

Philosophy:

How s/he feels about self:

Past failure s/he would be embarrassed to have people know about: \_\_\_\_\_

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Why? \_\_\_\_\_

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If granted one wish, what would it be?

Why?

## PERSONALITY:

Greatest source of strength in character's personality (whether s/he sees it as such or not): \_\_\_\_\_

Greatest source of weakness in character's personality (whether s/he sees it as such or not): \_\_\_\_\_

Character's soft spot:

Is this soft spot obvious to others?

If not, how does character hide it?

Biggest vulnerability:

Which, if any, of the 7 deadly sins does your character fight (or give into, willingly or not)?

(lust, gluttony, greed, sloth, wrath, envy, pride)

Which of the 7 virtues does your character have (or fight against)?

(chastity, abstinence, leberality, diligence, patience, kindness, humility)

## TRAITS:

Optimist or pessimist:

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

Introvert or extrovert:

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

Drives and motivations:

Talents:

Extremely skilled at:

Extremely unskilled at:

Good characteristics:

Character flaws:

Mannerisms:

Peculiarities:

Biggest regret:

Minor regrets:

Biggest accomplishment:

Minor accomplishments:

Character's darkest secret:

Does anyone else know?  
If yes, did character tell them?  
If no, how did they find out?

### **SELF-PERCEPTION:**

One word character would use to describe self:  
One paragraph description of how character would describe self: \_\_\_\_\_

What does character consider best physical characteristic?  
What does character consider worst physical characteristic?  
Are these realistic assessments?  
If not, why not?  
How CHARACTER thinks others perceive him/her:  
What four things would CHARACTER most like to change about self? (#1  
most important, #2 second most important, etc.)  
1. \_\_\_\_\_  
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
4. \_\_\_\_\_  
Why? \_\_\_\_\_

If change #1 was made, would character be as happy as s/he thinks?  
If not, why not?  
Etc.

### **INTERRELATION WITH OTHERS:**

\*Is character divorced? Why?  
If divorced, how many times?  
Has character ever cheated on any significant other?  
How does character relate to others?  
How is s/he perceived by...  
Strangers?  
Friends?  
Wife/Husband/Lover?  
Hero/Heroine?  
How does character view hero/heroine? \_\_\_\_\_

First impression:

Why?

What happens to change this perception? \_\_\_\_\_

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What do family/friends like most about character?

What do family/friends like least about character?\*\*\*

## **GOALS:**

Immediate goals:

Long range goals:

How does character plan to accomplish goals?

How will other people around character be affected?

## **PROBLEMS/CRISIS:**

How character reacts in a crisis:

How character faces problems:

Kinds of problems character usually runs into:

How character reacts to NEW problems:

How character reacts to change:

## **GENERAL:**

Favorite clothing:

Why?

Least favorite clothing:

Why?

Jewelry:

Other accessories (bling?):

Drives:

Where does character live?

Where does character want to live?

Spending habits (frugal, spendthrift, etc): \_\_\_\_\_

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Why?

What does s/he do too much of?

Too little of?

Most prized possession:

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

Play musical instrument?

Which?

How did s/he learn?

### TECHNICAL:

Owns a computer? Yes/No

If not, why not? \_\_\_\_\_

Email address(es): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

If more than one, each used for...?

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

"Handle" (computer "nickname"):

Meaning to character: \_\_\_\_\_

Uses computer for business, pleasure, both (circle)?

Does character play games on computer? Yes/No      If yes, which game(s)? \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, how many hours per day?

If so, are they/it multi-player-real-time game/s?

Name used on each game & meaning to character? \_\_\_\_\_

Ever used an online dating site?

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

What happened? \_\_\_\_\_

Online site(s) visited daily?

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

Why?



## UNCATEGORIZED:

Person character secretly admires:

Why?

Person character most influenced by:

Why?

Most important person in character's life before story starts:

Why?\*

Favorite slang word/phrase?

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